

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Planning, Governance, and Resource Development

AGENDA ITEM: 5 – B

DATE: May 8-10, 2018

SUBJECT

USD Student Organization Awards

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

None

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

At the March 2018 Board of Regents meeting, the Board approved the recommendations offered by each institution for the 2017 student organization awards winners. The winners of these awards are announced at Board meetings throughout 2018.

The USD Student Organization Awards will be presented at the May BOR meeting in Vermillion. Information about the USD student organization award winners can be found below:

USD Award for Academic Excellence: Sigma Alpha Epsilon

The mission of Sigma Alpha Epsilon is to promote the highest standards of friendship, scholarship, and service for its members based upon the ideals set forth by its founders and as specifically enunciated in “The True Gentleman.” To be considered for membership, an individual must be a man with a minimum 2.5 GPA, and show without question the qualities of a true gentleman, demonstrating humility and kindness to all no matter the situation. To demonstrate its academic excellence in 2017, the group did the following: held Study Tables every week for members with a GPA under 2.5, organized group study sessions for members in the same courses, had a much higher rate of member participation in Supplemental Instruction, and conducted membership reviews each semester to hold members accountable for their academic achievements.

USD Award for Community Service: Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA)

The purpose of the Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA) is to enhance the program by promoting unity among students through common interests. The profession is promoted through education, awareness, and affecting change throughout the community. Membership is open to any student attending the university. Active membership is contingent upon absence at no more than two SOTA meetings, participation in one committee, and participating in at least two activities sponsored by SOTA. In 2017, the

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group participated in the following community service events: delivering Meals on Wheels to those in the community of Vermillion, participating in bingo and enjoying the residents' company at Dakota Square Gardens, filling backpacks for Vermillion students in the Backpack Program, participating in annual highway cleanup events, weekly volunteer sessions with a community member to complete standing exercises to promote activity, assisting with the Annual Holiday Welcome Table, playing Wii with residents at Town Square, participation in Relay for Life, and organizing a school supplies drive.

USD Award for Organizational Leadership: Pi Beta Phi

The mission of Pi Beta Phi Fraternity for Women is to promote friendship, develop women of intellect and integrity, cultivate leadership potential, and enrich lives through community service. In 2017, members of the organization demonstrated leadership in the following ways: represented Pi Beta Phi at USD's Reverse Career Fair; coordinated multiple "Leading with Values" seminars for Member Development, coordinated a Resume Building Workshop, participated in the Emerging Leaders Institute, attended the 150th Leadership Convention and College Weekend, participated in the Organization Fair, attended leadership weekend for USD SFL, and provided leadership to other USD student organizations.

IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board recognizes the important role that student organizations play in the regental system. Student organizations provide students the opportunity to connect with others who have similar interests as well as experience a sense of community, all of which increases the likelihood of successful college completion. They also provide students with opportunities for professional development by offering students practical opportunities to hone skills, including those in leadership and communication.

ATTACHMENTS

None